In the Claims

1-24 (canceled).

25 (currently amended). A method for suppressing or inhibiting allergen-specific IgE production, said method comprising administering an effective amount of interferon tau or a chimeric interferon to a person or animal in need of suppression or inhibition of allergen-specific IgE production, wherein said chimeric interferon comprises a mammalian interferon tau amino terminus and a human type I interferon carboxy terminus other than interferon tau, or a biologically active fragment of said interferon tau or said chimeric interferon.

26-29 (canceled).

30 (previously presented). The method according to claim 25, wherein said mammalian interferon tau amino terminus is from a mammal selected from the group consisting of primate, ovine, and bovine.

31 (previously presented). The method according to claim 25, wherein said chimeric interferon comprises amino acid residues from about amino acid residue 1 to about amino acid residue 27 of ovine interferon tau and amino acid residues from about amino acid residue 28 to about amino acid residue 166 of human interferon alpha.

32 (previously presented). The method according to claim 31, wherein said interferon alpha is interferon alpha D.

33 (canceled).

34 (previously presented). The method according to claim 25, wherein said suppression or inhibition of IgE production occurs through inhibition of B-cell IgE secretion or inhibition of B-cell proliferation.

35 (currently amended). The method according to claim ~~33~~ 25, wherein said interferon tau or said chimeric interferon is administered by routes selected from the group consisting of oral administration, parenteral administration, subcutaneous administration and intravenous administration.

36 (previously presented). The method according to claim 35, wherein said person or animal is afflicted with, or predisposed to, an IgE-related condition, wherein said condition is an allergic condition.

37 (previously presented). The method according to claim 36, wherein said allergic condition is selected from the group consisting of allergic rhinitis, atopic dermatitis, bronchial asthma and food allergy.

38 (previously presented). The method according to claim 25, wherein said interferon tau or said chimeric interferon is administered *in vitro*.

39 (previously presented). The method according to claim 25, wherein said interferon tau or said chimeric interferon is formulated in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

40 (previously presented). The method according to claim 25, wherein said interferon tau is a mammalian interferon tau.

41 (previously presented). The method according to claim 40, wherein said mammalian interferon tau is from a mammal selected from the group consisting of primate, ovine, and bovine.

42 (currently amended). A method for suppressing or inhibiting proliferation of an IgE-producing cell, said method comprising administering an effective amount of interferon tau or a chimeric interferon to a person or animal in need of suppressing or inhibiting proliferation of IgE-producing cells, wherein said chimeric interferon comprises a mammalian interferon tau amino terminus and a human type I interferon carboxy terminus other than interferon tau, or a biologically active fragment of said interferon tau or said chimeric interferon.

43 (previously presented). The method according to claim 42, wherein said mammalian interferon tau amino terminus is from a mammal selected from the group consisting of primate, ovine, and bovine.

44 (previously presented). The method according to claim 42, wherein said chimeric interferon comprises amino acid residues from about amino acid residue 1 to about amino acid residue 27 of ovine interferon tau and amino acid residues from about amino acid residue 28 to about amino acid residue 166 of human interferon alpha.

45 (previously presented). The method according to claim 44, wherein said interferon alpha is interferon alpha D.

46 (canceled).

47 (currently amended). The method according to claim ~~46~~ 42, wherein said interferon tau or said chimeric interferon is administered by routes selected from the group consisting of oral administration, parenteral administration, subcutaneous administration and intravenous administration.

48 (previously presented). The method according to claim 47, wherein said person or animal is afflicted with, or predisposed to, an IgE-related condition, wherein said condition is an allergic condition.

49 (previously presented). The method according to claim 48, wherein said allergic condition is selected from the group consisting of allergic rhinitis, atopic dermatitis, bronchial asthma and food allergy.

50 (previously presented). The method according to claim 42, wherein said interferon tau or said chimeric interferon is administered *in vitro*.

51 (previously presented). The method according to claim 42, wherein said interferon tau or said chimeric interferon is formulated in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

52 (previously presented). The method according to claim 42, wherein said interferon tau is a mammalian interferon tau.

53 (previously presented). The method according to claim 52, wherein said mammalian interferon tau is from a mammal selected from the group consisting of primate, ovine, and bovine.

54 (previously presented). A method for suppressing or inhibiting allergen-specific IgE production, said method comprising contacting a cell producing an allergen-specific IgE with an effective amount of interferon tau or a chimeric interferon, wherein said chimeric interferon comprises a mammalian interferon tau amino terminus and a human type I interferon carboxy terminus other than interferon tau, or a biologically active fragment of said interferon tau or said chimeric interferon.

55 (previously presented). A method for suppressing or inhibiting proliferation of an IgE-producing cell, said method comprising contacting an IgE producing cell with an effective amount of interferon tau or a chimeric interferon, wherein said chimeric interferon comprises a mammalian interferon tau amino terminus and a human type I interferon carboxy terminus other than interferon tau, or a biologically active fragment of said interferon tau or said chimeric interferon.